

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 161030Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8849

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRNWC UR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - YAK-40 INQUIRY

REF: STATE 100118

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY AND AVIAEXPORT REGARDING MAGRUDER'S INTEREST IN VISITING YAK-40 PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND FLYING AIRCRAFT.

2. MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY ADVISED THAT AVIAEXPORT WAS ACTION ORGANIZATION AS FAR AS SOVIETS CONCERNED AND THAT MINISTRY WOULD BE PREPARED COOPERATE IN ANY PROGRAM AVIAEXPORT ARRANGED.

3. AVIAEXPORT POINTED OUT THAT YAK-40 PRODUCTION FACILITIES LOCATED IN SARATOV, WHICH CLOSED CITY. ACCORDING TO AVIAEXPORT, THIS RULED OUT VISIT TO PRODUCTION FACILITY. AS TO FLIGHT ON YAK-40, AVIAEXPORT SAID THEY AGREEABLE IN PRINCIPLE BUT RAISED QUESTION AS TO "SERIOUSNESS" OF PIEDMONT'S INTEREST IN THIS AIRCRAFT. AVIAEXPORT SUGGESTED THAT MAGRUDER WRITE TO AVIAEXPORT PRESIDENT V.S. STUDENIKIN OUTLINING PIEDMONT'S INTEREST IN YAK-40 AND REQUESTING OPPORTUNITY TO FLY AIRCRAFT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE BECOMING SOMEWHAT JADED TO EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN YAK-40 FROM U.S. FIRMS WHICH, THUS FAR, HAVE FAILED TO RESULT IN CONCRETE

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BUSINESS. ARGUMENT THAT SARATOV IS CLOSED CITY, WHILE A

CONVENIENT EXCUSE, IS NOT OVERRIDING, AS OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES
HAVE BEEN ALLOWED INSPECT YAK-40 PRODUCTION FACILITIES. FROM
MAGRUDER'S POINT OF VIEW, PROBLEM WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE TO
SOVIETS THAT PIEDMONT'S INTEREST IN YAK-40 IS SOMETHING MORE
THAN SIMPLE CURIOSITY. WHILE VISIT TO SARATOV MAY NOT BE
POSSIBLE IN ANY EVENT, MAGRUDER SHOULD BE ABLE TO FLY ON YAK-40
AND MEET WITH APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS IF HE ABLE PERSUADE
THEN THAT PIEDMONT "SERIOUS." EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT MAGRUDER
WRITE TO STUDENIKIN EXPLAINING
HIS INTEREST AND REQUESTING
VISIT TO SARATOV AND FLIGHT ON YAK-40. IF FURTHER EMBASSY
ASSISTANCE DESIRED, SUGGEST MAGRUDER POUCH COPY OF LETTER TO
COMMATT.
STOESSEL

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